

# Linux Tips and Tricks

Ravi

[linuxhelp.ravi@gmail.com](mailto:linuxhelp.ravi@gmail.com)

November 24, 2005

## Abstract

This document contains a collection of links to my notes on Linux which I am maintaining on the site titled [All about Linux](#). These notes cover my experiences in using Linux as well as System and Network administration topics. The notes are written in such a manner that it becomes easy to grasp the concepts easily even by a person new to linux. This is my endeavour to share my knowledge with people who are interested in learning Linux and becoming more productive in using this OS.

This document is best viewed in [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[Page 1 of 10](#)[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

# 1. Linux Tutorials

## 1.1. Linux History

The Complete Concise History of Linux

## 1.2. Bash Shell

Editing a Bash Command

Bash completion - Makes life easier for Linux users.

Special Shell Variables - Used in shell scripts.

Bash shell shortcuts

Configuring Xterm in Linux

10 Seconds guide to Bash Scripting

Enhancing system prompt \$PS1

Make your bash scripts userfriendly using dialog

**screen** - A window manager for the console.

Find number of days elapsed since Jan 1

**mount** your files the Linux way.

**script** - A command to record everything that scrolls off your terminal

[Home Page](#)

[Title Page](#)

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 2 of 10

[Go Back](#)

[Full Screen](#)

[Close](#)

[Quit](#)

## 1.3. Audio and Video

Burning audio and data CDs in Linux

How to play VCD .dat files using mplayer

Convert a VCD .dat file into mp3

## 1.4. Installing files in Linux

RPM package manager

Package management using YUM

Autopackage - The vendor neutral installer for Linux.

Convert between RPM, Deb and Tgz package formats

How to make your own package CDs for offline use

Installing Mono in Linux

Configuring Java in Linux

## 1.5. Installing Linux

Installing RedHat directly from the ISOs saved on your harddisk

Installing Linux on a Mac Mini

Installing Ubuntu Linux alongside Windows OS

Linux installation on new machine

Dual booting WinXP and Fedora Core 2

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[<<](#)[>>](#)[<](#)[>](#)[Page 3 of 10](#)[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

## Installing and configuring Ubuntu Linux on a Laptop

### 1.6. Tricks with Editors in Linux

**Vim** - The powerful simple editor.

Use **Abiword** to convert filetypes on the command line

### 1.7. Software Reviews

**Scribus** - The free DTP software for Linux.

**Flock** - The new experimental web browser for Linux

**PDF viewers for Linux**

**OpenOffice.org Ver 2.0** - The Top Office Suite for Linux

**ClamAV** - The free Anti Virus solution for Windows on Linux

**GIMP** - The graphics suite par excellence in Linux

### 1.8. Linux Distribution Reviews

The **Knoppix Advantage**

A Linux user's perspective in installing **FreeBSD 6.0**

[Home Page](#)

[Title Page](#)

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 4 of 10

[Go Back](#)

[Full Screen](#)

[Close](#)

[Quit](#)

## 1.9. Network Security

Designing a firewall using **Iptables**

**iptables** - The poor man's robust firewall for Linux

**TCP Wrappers in Linux**

**Apache Webserver** - Restrict access to your website.

## 1.10. Network Tips

Routing, NAT and Gateways explained

**Apache** - Namebased Vs IPbased Virtual Hosting

Understanding DNS

DNS on Linux part I

DNS on Linux Part II

DNS on Linux Part III

Who owns which port

NIS client - server configuration

DHCP server configuration

Change the **hostname** of your machine

Integrating Mac, Linux and Windows machines in a network with centralized login

[Home Page](#)

[Title Page](#)

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 5 of 10

[Go Back](#)

[Full Screen](#)

[Close](#)

[Quit](#)

## 1.11. Mail server and clients

[Sendmail](#) - An Introduction

[Sendmail Configuration](#) - Relevant details

[Change your MTA](#) - from Sendmail to Postfix and vice versa.

[Redirecting root's mail to another mail account](#)

[Mutt](#) - The versatile email client for Linux

[fetchmail and Gmail](#) - Download mail from your gmail account using fetchmail.

[Creating a Linux mail server](#)

## 1.12. System Administration

[Different ways of locking a user's account in Linux](#)

[Prevent a non-root user from shutting down / rebooting machine](#)

[Disk Quotas in Linux](#)

[Change system login banner in Linux](#)

[Enable centralised logging](#)

[System logging explained](#)

[Tips to secure your computer](#)

[find](#) - Finding files in Linux

[Cron](#) - Scheduling tasks in Linux the easy way.

[SSH](#) - Secure SHell explained

[Setting up SSH in Linux](#)

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[<<](#)[>>](#)[<](#)[>](#)[Page 6 of 10](#)[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

**SUDO** - Give selective super user powers to users or group of users.

**Job Control**

**Sharing directories among several users** - SUID, Sticky Bit etc.

**/proc filesystem explained**

**NFS** - Client and Server configuration.

**System Logging in Linux**

**hdparm** - Boosting your harddisk performance.

**Adding a swap file to your Linux system**

**chroot** - Make your files immutable which even root cant delete

**Get exact control over your files and directories in Linux**

## 1.13. Linux Filesystem

**Mounting NTFS filesystem in Linux**

**autofs** - Auto-mounting your filesystem dynamically

**LVM creation** - Logical Volume Management creation in Linux.

**Resizing LVM**

## 1.14. Linux Backup

**CPIO** - Creating tar files using cpio.

**Backup your data with rsync**

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[<<](#)[>>](#)[<](#)[>](#)[Page 7 of 10](#)[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)

## 1.15. Hardware Configuration

[Configuring Rockwell chipset winmodem in Linux](#)

[Configuring Sound in Linux](#)

[Configuring Microsoft Serial Intellimouse](#)

[NVIDIA](#) - Graphics card configuration explained.

[Installing Harddrive in Linux](#)

[Howto install a network card in Linux](#)

[Assigning an IP address to your NIC](#)

[Setting up multiple IP addresses on a single NIC](#)

[How to change MAC address of your machine](#)

[Find the speed of your NIC](#)

## 1.16. Linux Kernel

[Kernel compilation from source](#) - Linux 2.6

[Kernel compilation from source](#) - Linux 2.4

## 1.17. Database Tips

[MySQL Cheatsheet](#)

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[<<](#)[>>](#)[<](#)[>](#)[Page 8 of 10](#)[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)



## 1.18. Linux GUI Configuration

[Enable restart option in KDE Menu](#)

## 1.19. Internet and Linux

[Connecting to BSNL internet dialup account](#)

## 1.20. Linux News

[The process of chip making explained](#)

[GPL FAQ](#)

[\\$100 Laptops running Linux](#)

[Interview with Richard.M.Stallman](#)

[A preview of the \\$100 laptop](#)

[New worm targets Linux systems](#)

[Nokia 770 - A move in the right direction](#)

[Do-It-Yourself Laptop](#)

## 1.21. Misc Linux Articles

[Popular Linux Links](#)

[Home Page](#)

[Title Page](#)

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 9 of 10

[Go Back](#)

[Full Screen](#)

[Close](#)

[Quit](#)

Differences between various UNIX flavors  
5 Point program to beat a Mac  
Step-by-step guide to structured wiring  
A Linux guide to ALSA

## 1.22. Linux EyeCandy

**3ddesktop** - The desktop switcher on steroids  
**Linux Eyecandy**  
**New Desktop Theme**  
**Skinning your Desktop**  
**Window Managers in Linux**  
**Tag your files in GNOME**  
**Howto use windows fonts in Mozilla**

## 1.23. Make a Donation

**Donation** - If you find these tips useful, you may make a donation and support this project. You can pay via paypal.

You can find additional articles, tips and tricks, reviews of products and more at [linuxhelp.blogspot.com](http://linuxhelp.blogspot.com).

[Home Page](#)[Title Page](#)[Page 10 of 10](#)[Go Back](#)[Full Screen](#)[Close](#)[Quit](#)